[Translation]

Residential Schools

5855. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating about the need to provide block-wise free residential schools for the children belonging to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes and minority communities;

(b) if so, the efforts made by the Government to provide block-wise free residential schools for the girls of the said communities; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) to (c) The Ministry is in the process of finalising the details of a new scheme in this regard called the Kasturba Gandhi Swantantrata Vidyalaya.

[English]

Jagannath Shetty Commission Report

5856. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the Editorial captioned "ISI casts a long shadow" appearing in the "Pioneer" dated March 11, 1997;

(b) if so, the observations made in the said Report regarding ISI role in India; and

(c) the specific steps taken by the Government to check the ISI from using neighbouring countries to push narcotics, arms and ammunition and funds into the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (c) The Government has seen the newspaper report. The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Review of Forest Policy

5857. DR. C. SILVERA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to review the Forest Policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof with background;

(c) whether this review will include updating of wildlife Protection Act as well as the Environment Protection Act;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether this review and updating will help the general people in any way and also provide availability of additional Central financial assistance to implement environment projects very smoothly and rapidly; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government is contemplating to review the National Forest Policy, 1988 for which details are being worked out.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal to review the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. However, Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 is being reviewed for amendment to make it more effective.

(e) and (f) The review of the National Forest Policy would *inter alia* provide more opportunity for active participation by the community in sustainable management of forest resources. Review and updating of the Forest Policy, or Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 is not linked to improving the availability of central financial assistance for implementing environment projects.

Assistance for Forestry Research

5858. SHRIMATI PURNIMA VERMA :
SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether financial/technical assistance is likely to be received from the United Nations Development Programme to increase the capacity of the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education and educational institutions for the forestry research;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the projects likely to be launched with such assistance?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) to (c) A UNDP assisted Project for Strengthening and Developing the ICFRE is being implemented since September, 1992 for a period of five years with the UNDP contribution being US $ 2.56 million and the Govt. of India contribution being Rs. 21.94 million. The main objectives of the project are as follows:

- Establishment of a solid research base towards increasing forest productivity for optimising utilisation of biomass to support afforestation, reforestation and rehabilitation of degraded forests, village commons and agroforestry on farm lands;